1	2	3	4	5	6	7
RRL (BP)	1	0	0	0	0	0
RRL (j)	1	0	0	0	48	1
RRL (JT)	0	2	1	4	4	0
RRL (T)	20	2	23	2	20	2
TOTAL	199	35	452	56	580	86

Toronto meet on Bio-tech

430. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recently held Annual Global Bio-tech Meet in Toronto a recommendation was made that investors should focus on Red-bio-tech, *i.e.*, research on human genes, as against Green Bio-tech (Agriculture); and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) In the recently held Annual Global Bio-Tech Meet in Toronto, equal emphasis was given to the research and product development related to human health, environment and agriculture. In fact, the them of this years conference was "Life Sciences" focusing on new knowledged, new process & new products coming out of life sciences. The congregation acknowledged the increase in approvals of bio-technology based medicine, vaccines and breakthrough in medications for leukemia, congestive heart failure, HIV infection, pulmonary arterial, hypertension and life-threatening sepsis. However, it was realized that bio-technology will play a major role in cleanner manufacturing process, helping sustainable development and would result in developing nutritionally enhanced crops to provide more and better nutrition to a hungry world.

Developing Bio-tech Industry

431. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is amongst the leading emerging forces in the bio-tech world, with the potential to become a leading player in the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) whether the Ernst and Young report has also identified India as a notable area for bio-tech expanssion; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to develop the industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Sir, India has emerged as an important bio-tech centre and has the potential to become a leading player in the bio-tech sector in the Asia Pacific Region. The Frnst and Young report has concentrated mainly on the bio-tech industry of the United States, Europe, Canada and ten Asia pacific Nations including India having good potential for the expansion of the bio-tech industry.

To encourage industrial sector, the Government of India has established Technology Development Board (TDB) and pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the Department of Science & Technology for providing soft loans, incentives like exemption from Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 for certain bio-tech products. More than 100% of weighted deductions on R&D expenditure etc., have been allowed. There is an expert task force under the Department of Bio-technology to support bio-tech idustry related projects, Fifty three technologies have been transferred to industries Bio-technology product, Process Development and Commerialization Awards are presented to scientists, groups and industry every year on National Technology Day, 11th May, as an incentive. Human Resource Development Programmes in bio-technology have been implemented at universities and IITs. Further, the steps taken by the Government for promotion of bio-tec sector include imposing Customs Duties on imported bio-tech product wherever necessary, encouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in bio-tech sector, initiating measures for speedy implementation of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) projects, constitution of Fast Track Committee (FTC) under Foreign Investment Implementation Authroity (FIIA) etc.

Quality of steel in BSP

432. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lesser quantity of good quality steel and